

1           Q       Okay. Can you give the Grand Jury a time  
2 frame? Was that -- were those two visits within the  
3 five months preceding this incident?

4           A       Oh, yeah, definitely. No. Yeah, the  
5 man's never -- I don't think Judge Bonanno has ever  
6 been, since I've been in that office, that he's been in  
7 there, unless I wasn't there and he came in; you know,  
8 if I was working somewhere else.

9           Q       All right. Here's what I want to do now.  
10 We've got some other things to cover.

11          A       Okay.

12          Q       I want you to, and you're welcome to look  
13 at -- it's probably best not to look at the clock. I  
14 want, for the purpose of the Grand Jury, I want them to  
15 understand that you have just opened this door.

16          A       Uh-huh.

17          Q       You've decided there's something askew.  
18 And I want you to -- from the time you got in there I  
19 want you to -- we're going to be quiet -- stand there  
20 as long as you stood there, then yell out what you  
21 yelled, yell it as loud as you yelled it, wait as long  
22 until you yelled it a second time, so that we have a  
23 sense of how long someone was back there with no  
24 response to you.

25          A       All right.

1 Q Now, you have rattled the door, you've  
2 made a lot of noise, and you've just walked in.

3 A Oh, I rattled the door.

4 Q All right.

5 A Because I yanked it.

6 Q All right. Here we go. Are you ready?

7 A Okay.

8 Q All right. I want you to begin now.

9 A Okay. I open the door, and then I've  
10 gone in and I'm standing here. And I look over and I  
11 see the light there. I think, "Gee," I see the light  
12 there and I'm still, I'm thinking, "Why are the lights  
13 on?" I'm still thinking.

14 And I'm like, "I don't know about this."  
15 And then the next time when I see the shadow go across  
16 the wall, I stop for a minute and I think, "Oh, that's  
17 my judge. Oh, my judge is back." And that's exactly  
18 what I was thinking.

19 And then I said, "No, the judge is not  
20 back." This is how I'm thinking in my mind as I'm  
21 telling y'all. Then all of a sudden I go, "Hello."  
22 And then nothing happens. I said I know there's  
23 somebody in there. Then I go, "Hello." And then I  
24 wait and there's still nothing. And then all of a  
25 sudden out walks Judge Bonanno.

1           Q           Let me ask you this way: From the time  
2           you went in, rattled the door, until the time -- you  
3           can have a seat.

4           A           Okay.

5           Q           -- the judge came walking out, how much  
6           time elapsed?

7           A           Until we walked out together?

8           Q           From the time you opened that door --

9           A           Okay.

10          Q           -- including the time you stood there --

11          A           Okay.

12          Q           -- including the time you yelled,  
13          including the time you yelled, including the time that  
14          he came out and you first saw him, from the time you  
15          entered until the first time you saw him how much time  
16          elapsed?

17          A           I'd say two to three minutes. I mean,  
18          maybe that's over two minutes at least because, I mean,  
19          I stood there. I really stood there.

20          Q           Did you ever hear anyone yell, "Greg?"

21          A           No. No. Because I would have -- I would  
22          have said something.

23          Q           All right.

24          A           No.

25          Q           I want you to characterize based on

1 your -- you know Greg Holder, obviously -- characterize  
2 his relationship with Judge Bonanno. Are they friends?

3 A As working -- as working -- as working  
4 partners, yes.

5 Q No social relationship?

6 A No. None that I know of, no.

7 Q Judge Holder ever go down to Judge  
8 Bonanno's chambers?

9 A No. No.

10 Q And the only reason Judge Bonanno came  
11 down in those, those two trips was to check on a  
12 computer system?

13 A Correct. The -- that one time that he  
14 came in was to see the new computer, correct.

15 Q Have you ever, while working with Judge  
16 Holder in these chambers, seen this door ajar? Now, by  
17 ajar I mean not completely closed?

18 A No.

19 Q All right. Has it been left periodically  
20 unlocked all night?

21 A No. No. No, no, no, no, no.. That door  
22 is a locked door.

23 Q What about the cleaning crew, have they  
24 ever been known to leave it unlocked so that the next  
25 morning when you came in you found it open?

1 A No, huh-uh. That door is always locked.

2 Q Okay.

3 A As a matter of fact, I've never been  
4 there in all my night working time ever been there that  
5 the cleaning crew came through and opened the door and  
6 left it ajar. Because normally if they opened the door  
7 and saw me in there or something they'd go back out.

8 Q Do not let me unfairly or improperly put  
9 any words in your mouth, okay?

10 A Okay.

11 Q Here's the question: Do you think Judge  
12 Bonanno was up to anything worthwhile in here, anything  
13 legitimate?

14 A In my own personal knowledge?

15 Q That's what I want, your opinion.

16 A I don't think he had any business being  
17 in there. I don't -- I don't think there was nothing  
18 in there for him. There was no reason for him to be in  
19 there, none whatsoever. I mean, I will feel that in my  
20 heart always.

21 Q If you opened this door over here after  
22 hours, no activity in here, and yelled, "Greg?" would  
23 you be able to hear that throughout the entire area?

24 A Oh, yes. Oh, yeah. Because you'd  
25 hear -- first of all, you'd hear the doors unlock. In

1 any of those places if you go there and unlock the  
2 door, you can hear it; you can hear the doors jiggling.

3 Q I'm going to get into something and I  
4 don't want to dwell on it a lot, and you know where I'm  
5 going to go. It's going to involve Tara Pisano. And  
6 all I'm doing is exploring potential motivations for  
7 Judge Bonanno. That's all.

8 And I think I have put you -- I feel bad  
9 every time I do this because I think I've put you in an  
10 untenable position, and I don't like to do that.

11 A That's all right. Do what you have to  
12 do. I'm fine.

13 Q You and Tara Pisano are good friends?

14 A Correct.

15 Q And I'm going to lead you just so we can  
16 work through this, okay?

17 A Okay.

18 Q Judge Ficarrotta's office is either over  
19 here or back here somewhere?

20 A It's on -- his office is right there.

21 Q Right back here?

22 A Uh-huh. That's --

23 Q Just across the hall?

24 A Uh-huh.

25 Q All right. She never was assigned --

1 Tara Pisano was never assigned to Judge Ficarrotta, was  
2 she?

3 A No. That was Judge Whittemore's bailiff.

4 Q Okay.

5 A Uh-huh.

6 Q They developed something more than a  
7 friendship; they developed a relationship, --

8 A Correct.

9 Q -- did they not?

10 A Correct.

11 Q And that relationship lasted for how  
12 long?

13 A That I really cannot answer. I -- I can  
14 answer in a roundabout way.

15 Q Sure.

16 A Okay. I knew -- I really did not know  
17 that this relationship was going on until I came over  
18 to civil. I didn't realize it was that strong of a  
19 relationship. And I really was not told about this  
20 relationship until I want to say December of '98. And,  
21 but I knew I suspected it. I knew about it. Nobody  
22 had to tell me about it.

23 Q Well, by the time you discovered it  
24 December of '98, it had been going on for sometime?

25 A Yes. Yes.

1 Q Am I -- and is it fair to say it went  
2 into at least April, if not May of '99?

3 A To April '99.

4 Q April of '99?

5 A Uh-huh.

6 Q All right.

7 A No. April? Yeah, April '99, correct.

8 Q Gosh, you've heard a lot of talk about a  
9 journal?

10 A Yes.

11 Q What am I talking about when I say  
12 journal?

13 A When you're saying a journal, I'm going  
14 to say it's not a journal, but --

15 Q You can call it anything you want, just  
16 tell us what it is.

17 A Okay. What I'm saying is a collection of  
18 notes and events, all kinds of things that happened in  
19 that, while and during that relationship between her  
20 and Gaspar.

21 Q It's a recorded recollection of things  
22 that happened --

23 A Everything.

24 Q Everything?

25 A Everything.



1 Q Why was it -- why was it recorded?

2 A Because her attorney, she went to her  
3 attorney, Barry Cohen, and he wanted her to start doing  
4 notes of anything and everything that she could  
5 remember while and during that relationship to help  
6 him.

7 Q All right. We know for a fact -- and I  
8 shouldn't put it that way. Again, you straighten me  
9 out if I ask the question wrong. I don't want anything  
10 to be misleading.

11 A Okay.

12 Q There were conversations between you and  
13 her?

14 A Correct.

15 Q And you would even on occasion say  
16 something that would remind her, yeah, that needs to be  
17 in this collection of notes?

18 A I really only know of one thing.

19 Q Okay.

20 A And I -- no, I'm going to take that back.  
21 Not into the -- not anything into the notes that I ever  
22 told her to put into the notes. But I had said things  
23 that she didn't know that I knew, let's put it that  
24 way.

25 Q Okay. Things that she had already put in

1 the notes?

2 A Yes.

3 Q Okay.

4 A Yes.

5 Q And she said, "Gosh, I didn't know you  
6 knew that, but I've already recorded that"?

7 A Yes. Yes. Correct.

8 Q All right. Y'all would have some of  
9 these conversations that we're now talking about  
10 sitting around the old lunch table, wouldn't you?

11 A Not very many.

12 Q Some?

13 A Uh-huh.

14 Q Some meaning three, four?

15 A Not every day, not every week. It would  
16 just -- it would depend. Because I was -- she was  
17 really scared to talk anywhere, scared that there might  
18 be -- something might be bugged.

19 Q Sure.

20 A So it was kind of a if we did it, we did  
21 it after hours talking.

22 Q Over what length of time did she work on,  
23 I call it a journal, but you know what I mean?

24 A From the time that she was out with her  
25 surgery that she had April until -- well, let's put it

1 this way: From the time that she went to Barry Cohen's  
2 office and talked to him which was in April, April,  
3 first of May, she started compiling these notes.

4 Q Okay. It's pretty common knowledge that  
5 you and she were good friends, are good friends?

6 A Uh-huh.

7 Q And that y'all spent time together in the  
8 break room or back in this area?

9 A Uh-huh, whenever she didn't have court or  
10 whatever.

11 Q All right.

12 A Mostly lunchtime, not when she didn't  
13 have court.

14 Q I want to go over some of the things that  
15 you know are in that collection of notes that she has  
16 developed. Again, we know that it was done at the  
17 request of her attorney. But do we know why it was  
18 done?

19 A Well, why was it done; why she went to  
20 her attorney first?

21 Q No. No, why she was making these notes.  
22 I know who asked her to.

23 A Right.

24 Q But what was the purpose of it?

25 A Well, it --

1 Q Was she worried about her job?

2 A She was worried about her job and  
3 about -- she was worried about her son. She was  
4 worried about she was actually threatened to watch her  
5 son.

6 Q Who threatened her?

7 A Gaspar. Judge Ficarrotta.

8 Q I know this is tough. I know it is.

9 A That's all right.

10 Q But I've got to get you to tell us about  
11 it.

12 A Okay. That's fine. I'm fine.

13 Q Tell me how it came about, what he said  
14 as relayed to you?

15 A As relayed to me, that she was told by  
16 Judge Gaspar Ficarrotta that for her to never turn her  
17 back on her son, that something could happen to him,  
18 that he might disappear.

19 Q Why would he threaten her? Was it her  
20 idea to break off this relationship?

21 A I really don't know how -- if it was  
22 mutual or -- I think he broke it off. I don't think it  
23 was her. I think he broke it off. I'm not going to  
24 say for sure because --

25 Q I understand.

1           A           -- it might have -- I don't know.

2           Q           I'm just wondering what would cause him  
3 to -- you know, that's not such a subtle threat when  
4 you talk about your kids.

5           A           Uh-huh.

6           Q           What would cause him to do that, do you  
7 know? Did she say? Did you draw a conclusion?

8           A           Well, I know that she called his wife and  
9 talked to his wife on the phone. And I think that  
10 threat came after she had called his wife at work and  
11 named dates, places, and so forth. And I think that's  
12 when that threat came, afterwards.

13          Q           All right. You know that that was in the  
14 journal?

15          A           Uh-huh.

16          Q           The Grand Jury needs to know this, and  
17 they're going to know more before it's over with. She  
18 recorded apparently a lot of information relative to  
19 their sex lives together; is that right?

20          A           Correct.

21          Q           Tell us about it. I know.

22          A           In detail?

23          Q           Yes, ma'am.

24          A           Oh, Lordy. Can I go talk to my attorney?

25          Q           Is your attorney out there?

1 A Yeah.

2 Q If you want to talk to your attorney, you  
3 talk to your attorney.

4 A I'll be right back.

5 MR. HILL: I tell you what, any reason  
6 for her attorney not to be in here?

7 MR. THULLBERY: No.

8 MR. HILL: Invite him in.

9 THE WITNESS: Invite him in? Okay, good.

10 MR. HILL: He's your lawyer. He's  
11 welcome.

12 THE WITNESS: All right, thank you.

13 MR. HILL: It will slow us down a little  
14 bit, but nobody can say we're treating her  
15 unfairly. I don't want that.

16 (The witness left the room and returned  
17 with her attorney, Mike Edenfield.)

18 MR. HILL: You know, I apologize. I  
19 should have known you were out there, and I  
20 didn't, when she came in.

21 MR. EDENFIELD: Not a problem.

22 MR. HILL: Well, you are welcome to be in  
23 here.

24 MR. EDENFIELD: Okay.

25 MR. HILL: The rules are rather simple.

1 Come on and have a seat, Sylvia.

2 MR. EDENFIELD: I'll adhere by the rules.

3 MR. HILL: She can discuss anything she  
4 wants to with you. And, frankly, you're not in  
5 a position to object --

6 MR. EDENFIELD: Okay.

7 MR. HILL: -- or put anything on the  
8 record, but you're certainly welcome to advise  
9 her.

10 MR. EDENFIELD: Thank you.

11 MR. HILL: We are into a tough area. I  
12 knew it would be. Frankly, the Grand Jury is  
13 needing some very specific information that she  
14 has. And it's just tough on her to talk about  
15 it.

16 It's got to do with the, and she knows  
17 that she calls it something different, but the  
18 journal, and we all know what we're talking  
19 about, and some of the specific things that are  
20 in that journal that have been shared with her  
21 by Tara Pisano.

22 And my last question had to do with it  
23 covered a series of sex acts. And I want her to  
24 tell the Grand Jury about them; where they  
25 occurred, frequency, who was dressed how, was it